

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OTTAWA 01254 301629 Z

50

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 077906

O R 301511 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1098

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 1254

EXDIS

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E. O. 11652: XGDS1
TAGS: PFOR, ZA, CA
SUBJECT: MAY 15 SHOOTING INCIDENT

1. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING ASAP TO CANHICOM BROADBRIDGE
FROM EXTAFF SECRETARY SHARP: QUOTE: DEATH OF CDN
TOURISTS IN RHODESIA. FOLLOWING FOR HIGH COMMISSIONER
FM SSEA. BEGINS. YOU SHOULD KNOW LETTER FROM PRIME MIN
TO PRESIDENT KAUNDA ON THIS MATTER WILL SHORTLY FOLLOW.
WHILE MUDENDA LET TO ME (WHICH, AS YOU KNOW FM OURTEL
236 OF MAY 29, I AM NOW REQUIRED TO TABLE IN THE HOUSE)
WENT SOME DISTANCE TO MEET CONCERNS HERE, IT DID NOT/ NOT
GO AS FAR AS WE HAD HOPED, PARTICULARLY IN REGARD TO
APOLOGY.

2. MEANWHILE, I WOULD LIKE YOU TO SEEK AN IMMEDIATE APPOINT-
MENT WITH SOME SENIOR OFFICIAL CLOSE TO THE PRESIDENT
SUCH AS MARC CHONA. (THIS SEEMS PREFERABLE THAN
FURTHER APPROACH TO MUDENDA). YOU SHOULD BEGIN BY
EMPHASIZING OUR CONCERN TO AVOID RECRIMINATIONS AND OUR
DESIRE TO REMOVE HEAT FROM ISSUE. YOU SHOULD ADD THAT
WE APPRECIATE EXPRESSIONS OF REGRET AND CONDOLENCES
FROM ZAMBIAN SIDE AND FULLY ACCEPT THEIR SINCERITY.
WE HAVE NO/ NO DOUBT WHATSOEVER OF DEEP AND GENUINE CONCERN
OF ZAMBIANS AT DEATH OF INNOCENT CDNS. HOWEVER WE ARE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 OTTAWA 01254 301629 Z

STILL FACED HERE WITH PROBLEMS CREATED BY UNDENIABLE FACT THAT SHOTS WERE FIRED FROM ZAMBIAN SIDE. THIS OF COURSE IS BASIS FOR CONTINUED QUESTIONS IN HOUSE AS TO WHETHER WE HAVE RECEIVED " APOLOGY" FM ZAMBIAN GOVT. THIS QUESTION IS ASKED BY MANY PEOPLE WHO CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY INNOCENT PARTIES SHOULD BE SHOT EVEN IF THEY BLUNDERED INTO SENSITIVE AREA.

3. YOU SHOULD EXPLAIN THAT OUR OWN FIRST- HAND ENQUIRIES DISCLOSE NO/ NO EVIDENCE THAT THE TOURISTS WERE ACTING IN A WAY TO CREATE SUSPICION. OUR INFO IS THAT THEY WERE NOT/ NOT SWIMMING TOWARDS ZAMBIA OR CARRYING ANYTHING THAT MIGHT BE MISTAKEN FOR ARMS OR EXPLOSIVES. WE THEREFORE ASSUME THAT SHOOTING WAS A TRAGIC ERROR. WE WONDER IF IT WOULD NOT/ NOT SERVE OUR COMMON PURPOSE OF QUIETENING DOWN REPERCUSSIONS OF THE AFFAIR IF THE ZAMBIAN GOVT COULD SAY SOMETHING TO THAT EFFECT PERHAPS AFTER TAKING STEPS TO VERIFY OUR INFO.

4. OTHER POSSIBILITY WE WISH YOU TO RAISE WITH MARC CHONA (OR SOMEONE SIMILAR) IS THAT OF COMPENSATION PAYMENT TO FAMILIES. THIS MIGHT ALSO BE PUT IN FORM OF QUESTION AS TO WHETHER ZAMBIAN GOVT HAS CONSIDERED MAKING OFFER OF COMPENSATION. YOU SHOULD EXPLAIN THAT IT IS NOT/ NOT UNUSUAL FOR GOVTS TO VOLUNTEER TO PAY COMPENSATION IN SUCH CASES. ONE EXAMPLE WE KNOW OF WAS WHEN BULGARIAN GOVT PAID COMPENSATION TO FAMILIES OF FOUR CDNS WHO DIED WITH OTHER PASSENGERS WHEN AN ISRAELI AIRCRAFT WAS SHOT DOWN IN 1955 BY BULGARIAN DEFENCE FORCES AFTER IT HAD STRAYED INADVERTENTLY INTO BULGARIAN AIR SPACE. IF ZAMBIAN GOVT DOES NOT/ NOT WISH TO PREJUDGE QUESTION OF LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEATH OF GIRLS THEY COULD OFFER EX GRATIA PAYMENT. IMPORTANT THING IN OUR VIEW IS THAT SOME CONCRETE GESTURE TOWARDS FAMILIES IS CLEARLY WARRANTED AND WOULD GO A LONG WAY TO CORRECTING PRESENT UNHAPPY SITUATION.

5. FOR YOUR OWN INFO, WE HAVE NOT/ NOT YET BEEN APPROACHED BY FAMILIES ON SUBJ OF COMPENSATION BUT DO NOT/ NOT OF COURSE RULE OUT THIS POSSIBILITY.

6. GRATEFUL REPORT SOONEST. MITCHELL SHARP UNQUOTE.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 OTTAWA 01254 301629 Z

SCHMIDT

CONFIDENTIAL
NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS, STADIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PFOR
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973OTTAWA01254
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: XGDS1
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730555/aaaajvom.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11-Sep-2001 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <13-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980306
Subject: MAY 15 SHOOTING INCIDENT
TAGS: PFOR, CA, ZA
To: LUSAKA
SECSTATE WASHDC
SS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005